Departments

—continued from page 6

1996, 128 pages, maps, photographs, bibliography of recommended readings. $37.50, paperback; $70.00, limited cloth edition signed by the author. Reviewed by Lawrence F. Van Horn.

Spread respectively among five states in the United States and one province in Canada—Nebraska, North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Saskatchewan—the author provides a well-organized guide for automobile tourists to visit the various types of sites associated with the Great Sioux War of 1876–1877, which he calls "a military-cultural epic with little parallel in American history" (page 17). Paul Hedren is a geographer and historian and superintendent of Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, North Dakota.

The historical narrative is interwoven with 54 "GETTING THERE" vignettes keyed to the text. With acknowledgements, an introduction, and instructions on how to use this guidebook, Hedren organizes his material into five chapters: "An Orientation Tour through the Sioux War Landscape," "Setting the Stage," "The Summer War, March–October 1876," "The Winter War, 1876–1877," and the "Sioux War Aftermath, 1877–1881." These chapters are succinct but still comprehensive with each of the interspersed vignettes giving a concise statement of historical significance along with regional and local highway directions to the site. The arrangement works because of the extensive cross-referencing in each chapter to the vignettes. Every time a site is mentioned, its "GETTING THERE" number follows in bold parentheses for convenient page turning.

The Lakota and Northern Cheyenne fought during the Great Sioux War in a valiant attempt to maintain their cultural, geographical, and subsistence integrity from increasing Euro-American inroads. Hedren recounts their struggles mainly from the United States Army's perspective of its mission "to move the roaming Sioux to their reservation" (page 25). Thus, a concern of mine about this book is the need for greater sensitivity to and inclusion of Indian perspectives, both then and now about strategies, tactics, and cultural values.

One of Hedren's recommendations for further reading poignantly discusses the concept of total war—Jerome Greene's *Slim Buttes, 1876: An Episode of the Great Sioux War* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1982). More than once, total war became the hallmark of the Great Sioux War in which non-combatant women and children were killed along with combatant warriors. Hedren alludes to total war in his discussion of the Dull Knife Battle, Wyoming, which took place on November 25, 1876:

> Thirty Cheyennes were killed in the battle. Eleven babies froze to death that night, exposed to the frigid weather without shelter. More than any other fight in the Great Sioux War, the ferocity and conclusiveness of the Dull Knife battle demonstrated to the Indians that nothing short of absolute submission would end this war (page 92).

Hedren notes that the Lakota group devastated by Captain Anson Mills and his contingent of Third Cavalry on September 9, 1876, at Slim Buttes, South Dakota, was on reservation land—the Great Sioux Reservation. Apparently there was no need to attack this group within the overall mission of the army, which was reservation containment as mentioned above. The attacking United States force probably did not know that reservation land was involved (pages 77 and 79). But given total war, perhaps this knowledge would have made no difference.

The cultural importance today of certain Indian sites and land statuses could have been presented more clearly. By way of example, Hedren refers to the land of the Crow Nation that contains part of the Little Bighorn Battlefield, Montana, as being only under federal "Bureau of Indian Affairs jurisdiction" (page 63). The concept of Indian sovereignty is still current and consistent with the 1834 nation-within-a-nation opinion of Chief Justice John Marshall. So current, in fact, is this concept that the Memorandum of April 29, 1994, of President William Jefferson Clinton emphasizes federal consultations on a basis of "Government-to-Government Relations With Native American Tribal Governments." Hedren might have added that jurisdiction, especially from the Indian perspective, is with the Crow Nation.

On a minor note, many photographs that Hedren provides are properly attributed as to their source, naming the collection of which they are a part. Others, however, are not credited. It would have been more helpful simply to attribute all historic and contemporary photographs in the book, even if supplied by the author.

Hedren is particularly strong in describing the geographic landscapes of the Great Sioux War (pages 23–26). I applaud him on this because these landscapes literally set the stage for what happened and provide background information that is useful for additional cultural and ethnohistorical research. Further interest has been provoked, at least for me, in Plains Indian grass burning, which Hedren mentions as a military tactic but implying a larger cultural and ecological practice related to indigenous land management (pages 61, 73, and 91). It would seem that prairie grass was burned as a diversion militarily and to reduce the grazing available for the enemy's livestock. Ecologically, it apparently affected the floral balance in certain desirable ways and induced new growth.

This book is a precise, well-written roadside guide, both historically sound and stimulating. It should be of lasting value to those not only wanting to visit the actual sites of the Great Sioux War, but also to those who want to know more about North American Indians and United States soldiers and why, how, and where they fought.

How the Other Half Lived: A People's Guide to American Historic Sites by Philip Burnham; reviewed by Dwight Pitcaithley.

How the Other Half Lived is based on a simple question: how have museums and historic sites assimilated the social history scholarship of the past 30 years? To answer this question, Philip Burnham took two years visiting several dozen historic sites and museums operated by local, state, private, and national entities. The results of his inquiry are represented in five topical chapters; "The Indian Battle," "The Plantation," The Mission," "Hearth and Home," "The Railroad," and a conclusion. Burnham's choice of sites is in keeping with his curiosity. Do plantation sites discuss slavery as well as the architecture of the manor house and the social life of its owners? Are mission sites presented only from the perspective of the Spanish, or do they incorporate the views of the novitiates? Do battle sites present a balanced view of the event, or do they tend to glorify and reinforce ethnocentrist views of one side or the other?

Burnham is not encouraged by what he found. Too many historic plantations still refer to slaves as servants, too many mission sites offer stereotypical views of the Spanish and their Indian charges. For the most part, Burnham discovered that most historic sites and museums (at least of the ones he visited) present one-dimensional views of the past, uncomplicated by recent research. Instead of offering the past with all the complexity and richness that historians now know existed, museums and sites remain (according to Burnham), stuck in a philosophical conceptualization that romanticizes the past and reinforces traditional stereotypes. While new scholarship could be used to paint much clearer and more complete images of the past, Burnham finds that most sites and museums avoid dealing with historical complexity or controversy despite the educational potential to be found in doing so.

Incorporating social history research into educational programs is, indeed, more difficult than operating a historic site that reflects only one view of the past. Burnham proposes that managers and administrators grapple with the issue, get beyond the typical house tour, and ask "who did the work here, and under what conditions?" These are good suggestions. Historic sites and museums should regularly reassess their educational programs in light of recent research and develop new, different, and challenging ways of exploring the past for the visiting public. The places where we learn our history should be more about education than reaffirmation.

How the Other Half Lived could serve as a blueprint for incorporating new research into exhibits and historic site presentations. It disappoints, however, for Burnham never fully engages his subject. He skirts about the edges, probing and picking, but never really grappling with the substance of the issue. He finds fault with almost every exhibit, (sometimes with good reason, sometimes a bit too quickly for this reviewer), but seldom suggests how the subject might be presented more effectively and completely using social history research. His singular reference to the Smithsonian Institution, for example, is to its outmoded railroad exhibit. Recent Smithsonian Institution exhibits including, "First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image," "Parlor to Politics: Women and Reform, 1890–1925," "Field to Factory: Afro-American Migration, 1915–1940," and the Institution's remarkable contribution to the bicentennial of the Constitution, "A More Perfect Union," are nowhere in evidence. Sites that do appear, by the author's own account, to incorporate new scholarship, receive only oblique approval. Smaller deficiencies include the bibliography, which contains only ten items; the endnotes, which reference only quoted material; and the index, which was somehow omitted.

Philip Burnham had, by all accounts, a great deal of fun compiling this book, but in the process compromised its usefulness. His propensity for making flip comments in lieu of balanced assessments regularly clashes with the importance of the subject at hand. This is unfortunate, for Burnham asks important questions—questions that need to be addressed by all museums and historic sites that present themselves as educational institutions. In spite of its problems, *How the Other Half Lived* is worth reading; in amongst the glib observations and the unbalanced presentation are thoughts worthy of careful consideration.

—Dwight Pitcaithley

SOLINET

The Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) has introduced its Preservation Services web pages, now available as a part of the SOLINET web site. Information available includes full text leaflets and bibliographies, a Reference Question of the Month, workshop schedules and descriptions, listing of preservation publications for sale, a description of the Audiovisual Loan program, and an overview of the Microfilm Service. The "What's New" page features new programs, news from members, and upcoming events. The URL is http://www.solinet.net/presvtn/preshome.htm. If you are a member of SOLINET and would like to submit a short article related to preservation for the "News From Members" section, contact Sharla Richards, 1-800-999-8558, ext. 228 (sharla_richards@solinet.net) or Christine Wiseman, 1-800-999-8558, ext. 241 (christine_wiseman@solinet.net).

NCPTT

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) announces its 1997 Preservation Technology and Training Grants in historic preservation. The Center is a National Park Service initiative to advance the practice of historic preservation in the fields of archeology, architecture, landscape architecture, materials conservation, and interpretation. Grants will be awarded in three program areas: research, training, and information management. All proposals that seek to develop and distribute preservation skills and technologies for the identification, evaluation, conservation, and interpretation of cultural resources will be considered.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, pending the availability of funds. Only government agencies and not-for-profit institutions may apply.

Proposal deadline is December 20, 1996. The complete 1997 PTTGrants announcement, including the request for proposals and instructions on how to prepare and submit applications, is available via NCPTT's fax-on-demand computer and NCPTT's World Wide Web page and Internet gopher.

For more information via fax, telephone NCPTT's fax-on-demand computer at 318-357-3214, and follow the recorded instructions to receive a 1997 PTTGrants announcement by return fax; via World Wide Web, the address is http://www.cr.nps.gov/ncptt/; and via gopher, the address is gopher://gopher.ncptt.nps.gov. The 1997 PTTGrants announcement is posted under About the National Center...../Announcements/.

BULLETIN BOARD

Historic Sites Brochures

Heading South or West? Interested in historic buildings, districts, sites, structures, and objects? The National Park Service highlights many of these areas in its *National Register of Historic Places Travel Itineraries of South and West Texas* and *Coastal Georgia and Florida*. These publications are part of *Discover Our Shared Heritage*—a National Register Travel Itinerary Series that explores our country's past through visiting historic places which reflect major aspects of American history. Included in the itineraries are national parks, National Historic Landmarks, and other sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the nation's official list of places important in our history and worthy of preservation.

The travel itineraries consist of self-guided tours which include a brief historical essay and a description of each place's significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. They provide maps, locations, photographs, and sources of additional information on the historic sites that can be used to develop individualized tours targeting specific geographic areas, historic periods, or aspects of history.

The Texas itinerary describes 43 historic places associated with the early history of South and West Texas. It includes sites associated with the first explorers and settlers of Texas—the American Indians—as well as historic missions, *presidios* (forts), and towns reflective of the European and later American experience in Texas. The major themes highlighted in this itinerary are: encounters between Europeans and native peoples, development of the Spanish mission system, Spanish and Mexican settlement, the Texas independence movement, and the impact of European immigration. The tour of historic places in southern Texas extends through the western frontier.

The coastal itinerary describes 51 historic places associated with the early history of coastal Georgia and Florida. It